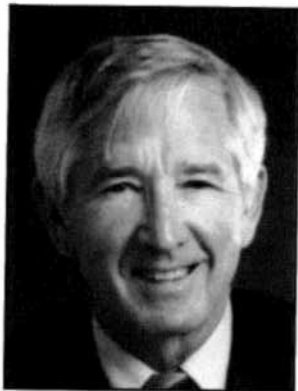




HMA Annual Meeting 2003



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Contributing Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal

Medical-Legal Seminar

Without question the September 26, 27 and 28th annual meeting of the Hawaii Medical Association was the most ambitious in history. While attendance was considerably better than recent years, still too many members missed a great opportunity to learn and be entertained. This meeting had everything! A keynote address by Governor **Linda Lingle**, followed by a medical, legal, political seminar about problems and hopes for the future. A broad and comprehensive scientific program was presented, and we enjoyed both business meeting participation and a marvelous speech by the President of the American Medical Association, **Donald J. Palmisano, MD, JD**. As usual the exhibits were well arranged and informative. Moreover, the exhibitors are critical to the financial well-being of the meeting, and HMA is so glad for their participation.

After the Governor highlighted the medical-legal progress made in the recent legislative session, a panel discussion ensued outlining the \$65 million lawsuit attempting to silence physicians. The suit not only failed, but established legal precedent to allow physicians to educate their colleagues in regard to contracts with third parties. The discussion was moderated by **Patricia Chinn, MD, JD**, and included HMA counsel **Robert Miller, JD**, **Susan Wong, JD**, **Leonard Howard, MD**, HMA past president, HMA President **Calvin Wong**, and **Timothy Norbeck**, Executive Director of the Connecticut Medical Society.

An additional session discussed the \$220 million Aetna Class-Action settlement, and its impact on healthcare costs. **Gerald McKenna, MD**, HMA past president and **Timothy Norbeck** contributed information and perspective.

Philip Hellreich, MD, past president, moderated a blue ribbon panel on tort reform. Included were politicians and legal experts, including Senator **Robert Bunda**, majority leader, Senator **Fred Hemmings**, minority leader, **Brian Taylorson** Hawaii claims supervisor for MIEC and **Norman Slaustas**, executive vice president HAPI.

The morning session concluded with a panel on duties of board members and the abuse of peer review with speakers **Gerald McKenna, MD**, **Jonathon Weisul, MD**, and **Shelton Jim On**,

Notes on Medical-Legal Seminar and Scientific Sessions and Coverage of the Inauguration Dinner of the 147th Hawaii Medical Association Annual Meeting

HMA counsel for peer review. "Bad boards, bad boards, what 'cha gonna do when they come for you?"

This seminar was the first of its kind for the annual meeting. It was well attended and offered illuminating discussions and presentations from top to bottom, with a broad brush covering many difficult areas of medical practice in the new millennium. Breakout programs on Saturday afternoon, as on Friday, provided detailed information relating to morning presentations on both days.

Friday's Scientific Session

The Friday scientific program was directed at *Updates in Preventative Medicine*. **Joana Magno, MD, FACC**, gave a very informative presentation on cardiovascular disease in women with emphasis on risk factors - hypertension, tobacco, obesity, diabetes and inactivity. Data confirm that while women fear breast cancer, in fact cardiovascular disease is a considerably greater risk, often unknown until a heart attack strikes. 63% of female deaths from heart disease had no symptoms prior to the fatal event. The problems of hormonal therapy in postmenopausal women were presented by **Helena R. Chang, MD, PhD**. The balance between various risks and benefits were discussed, and no definitive study has yet come about. **Cheryl L. Lambing, MD**, gave an informative talk about osteoporosis, a systemic skeletal disease characterized by bone fragility. Direct medical costs run to \$14 billion annually. Attention was directed to bone density testing and behavior mechanisms to minimize risk. **Michael E. Carney, MD**, presented an illuminating paper on cervical and ovarian cancer screening. Prior to the 1940s, cervical cancer was the #1 cause of cancer death for US women; it is now #11, the decrease due to Pap screening. Sad to say that worldwide, it remains the #1 cancer killer of women, due to lack of screening. Ovarian cancer is a different and more challenging story. With a median age of 55, it is the number four fatal malignancy for women, and 75% are in advanced stages when diagnosed. Little improvement in survival has occurred over the last 30 years.

The morning session continued with a comprehensive discussion of advances in immunizations by **Jay M. Lieberman, MD, FAAP**. Great strides have been made in flu vaccines, and combination

pediatric vaccines. He also discussed the military data re small pox immunization. **John S. Bertram PhD**, concluded the morning with cancer chemoprevention. Preventative strategies were discussed - UV, tobacco, diet, as well as chemopreventive agents and mechanisms to arrest the process of carcinogenesis. Breakout programs filled the afternoon with more and detailed information relating to the morning presentations.

Carnival of Fun !!!

The *Carnival of Fun* opening reception Friday evening featured magicians, a face-painting booth, clowns and balloons for keiki as well as special entertainment by noted local comedian **Frank Delima**. Exhibitors incorporated the carnival theme into their booths through the use of food, games and prizes. A trivia game qualifying doctors for numerous free prizes encouraged interactions between doctors and vendors.

Saturday's Scientific Session

The Saturday morning session was dedicated to *New Diagnostic Modalities*. **Marc Coel, MD** talked about PET scanning as used to aid in diagnosis of tumors as well as evaluating myocardial viability. Excellent material for understanding this new diagnostic tool. **Timothy A. Donlon, PhD, FACMG**, presented the use and future applications of the DNA microarray technology, especially as how to apply to hereditary risks and genetic utility. It will become easy to trace family diseases with dominant inheritance. Genomic medicine will change health care and allow much more precise therapy. **David R. Cox, MD, PhD**, followed with a brilliant presentation of genetics and everyday life which was laced with fascinating examples, and noting that Time, Newsweek and U.S. News and World Reports have all run feature stories on genetics. Certainly one of the most entertaining and enlightening programs of the day.

The rest of the Saturday AM session addressed the very challenging medical problem of morbid obesity. Without question, obesity has become an enormous epidemic in the United States, as Americans continue to grow fatter. The trend is terrible as people walk less, rarely bicycle, drive everywhere, eat more, and claim that the tv remote has significantly improved their lives. In the United States, obesity kills more than 300,000 each year; type two diabetes is greatly increasing, and current data show that more than 50% are overweight! Americans now consume from 150 to 340 more calories per day than we did 20 years ago. Native Hawaiians are especially at increased risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and morbid obesity. Between 1986 and 1994, Hawaii's average body mass index (BMI - wt in Kg/M square) jumped from 16.55 to 24.1, and continues to increase. **Kenric M. Murayama, MD, FACS**, described the criteria and mechanisms of laparoscopic surgery for morbid obesity with attention to history and development of procedures. While the operation has risks, the benefits can be startling and lifesaving for the morbidly obese person. **Joe Risser, MD, MPH, FACPM**, on the other hand, described the failures of non-surgical alternatives and weight management strategies. Patients can lose weight on various programs, but the recurrence of obesity at 9 to 18 months is between 95% and 99%. True dedication and altering one's life style are necessary, and few patients seem able to do that.

Inauguration Dinner

Saturday evening's *Inauguration Dinner* in the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village saw investiture of new Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) President **Sherrel M. Hammar, MD**, who was sworn in by American Medical Association (AMA) President **Donald J. Palmisano, MD, JD**. **Susan**, wife of outgoing HMA President **Calvin Wong, MD**, joined him on the podium after he completed farewell comments detailing accomplishments during his tenure. Earlier in the program, **Philip D. Heilreich, MD**, and **John T. McDonnell, MD**, introduced Legislators of the Year Hawaii State Senator **Colleen Hanabusa** and Representative **Calvin Say**, Speaker of the House of Representatives. **F. Don Parsa, MD**, introduced Physician of the Year and past HMA President **Herbert Y. H. Chinn, MD**, father of another past HMA President **Patricia L. Chinn, MD, JD**, and of **Herbert K.W. Chinn, MD**. Dr. Chinn's family joined him onstage after the presentation. **General Eric Shinseki**, Kauai High School graduate and former United States of Army Chief of Staff, was keynote speaker. **John M. Hardman, MD**, Pathology Chair at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawaii "roasted" Dr. Hammar, projecting many photographs of the new HMA President at different times in his life. **Kalani Brady, MD**, led the Inaugural Procession onstage with a traditional Hawaiian chant. **Gerald J. McKenna, MD**, assisted with introductions, and **Paula Akana**, KITV News 4 Anchor, emceed the evening. Dancing to the Ebbitides continued after conclusion of the formal portion of the evening. The sit-down, served dinner was delicious.

Among the many politicians in attendance at this 1500-guest gala were former City Councilmembers **Duke Bainum, MD**, and **Mufi Hannemann**.

Sunday's Scientific Session

The theme for Sunday, September 28, was *Treatment Updates*. **Hal F. Yee, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP**, gave the audience a hepatology update, as he reviewed the diagnosis and management of non-alcoholic fatty liver. His presentation centered around NIDDB, hereditary hemochromatosis, and autoimmune hepatitis, and that each of these can be treated. **B. Eliot Cole, MD, MPA, FAPA**, gave a dynamic and witty program about the management of pain with a discussion of acute and chronic pain. Goals, risks and complications of drug therapy were addressed as well as the JCAHO recent concern for the patients rights about pain. **Jeffrey S. Wang, MD**, gave an overview of Interventional Therapies in Pain Management. **Jennifer J. James, MD**, provided detailed information about Complementary and Alternative Medicines: Focus on Herbal Remedies in which she said many homeopathic remedies beginning with "g" (ginseng, ginko, ginger, garlic, glucosamine) and coenzyme Q10 may potentiate effects of aspirin and coumadin, and that those with hypertension should avoid products which may increase blood pressure (ephedra, guarana, goldenseal, ma huang and licorice). Although garlic (lowers lipids, mild antihypertensive), St. John's Wort (anti-depression), saw palmetto (prostate health) and glucosamine-chondroitin sulfate do appear to have some beneficial effects, these can react adversely with prescribed medications. **Eugene M. C. Lee, MD, PhD**, gave a holistic discussion of Bringing Together the Best of Modern Medicine and Traditional Healing



"Paula Akana" (not to be confused with HMA Executive Director, "Paula Arcena") was MC at the President's Inaugural Dinner.



State Rep. Calvin Say at the podium with past presidents Philip Hellreich and John McDonnell giving their support.



Herbert Y.H. Chinn MD, 2003 Physician of the Year, with family, gives the paparazzi an opportunity for a photo op.



General Erik K. Shinseki giving his keynote address at the inaugural dinner.



Immediate Past President, Calvin Wong MD, gives his farewell speech with Mrs. Wong at his side.

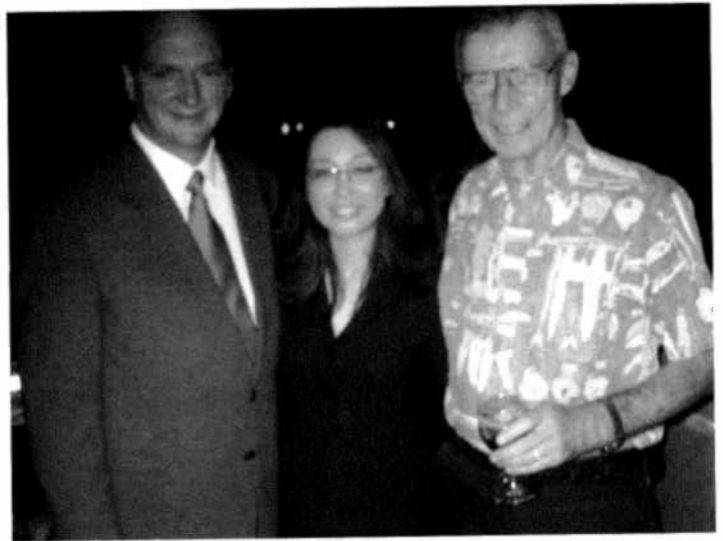


Sherrell Hammar MD, being sworn in as new HMA president by AMA President Donald J. Palmisano MD.

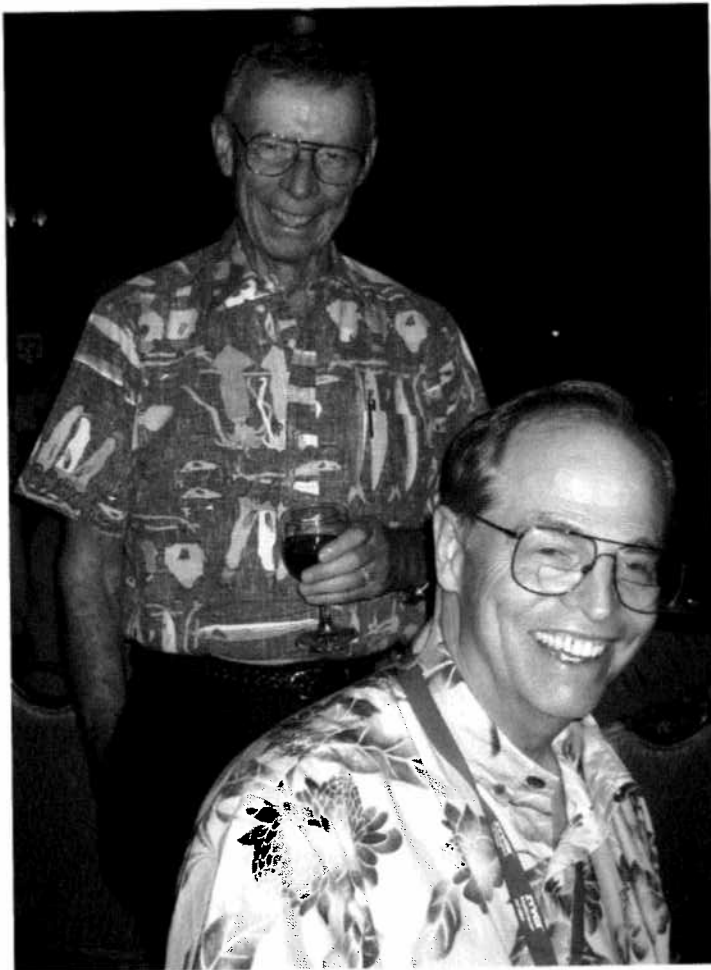
Arts, concluding the morning. Dr. Lee elaborated on this presentation in his afternoon Breakout Discussion presentation on Traditional Chinese Remedies which included other topics detailing prior morning presentations. **Arthur R. Roeca, JD**, of Honolulu's Roeca, Louie & Hiranaka, gave guidelines for avoiding medical litigation in his Prevention of Medical Liability: High Risk Practice Patterns.

Associate Editor's note...

The HMA's three-day 147th Annual Meeting and Scientific Convention, *Medical Updates in Paradise 2003* was, not only as **Contributing Editor Stodd** said "the most ambitious in history", but one of the most successful ones as well. Special *mahalo* go to all who made it possible, including our Exhibitors, Grant Providers, Table Sponsors, Annual Committee Meeting Members, Scientific Session Committee Members, the HMA Staff, the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort and Spa, and numerous others including our very enthusiastic and capable JABSOM Medical Student Volunteers.



Duke Bainum MD, his guest and James Navin MD weren't too busy to let us take a snapshot.



James Navin MD (Straub Hospital & Clinic Pathology Chief) and Tom Grollman MD (Kauai orthopedist) at inauguration dinner.



Brig. General (ret) James A. Hastings MD, with wife Constance Hastings MD were gracious enough to pose for the camera.



HMA past presidents and officers take the stage at the inaugural dinner.



UH Med Students were a great help at the registration desk.



Drs. John W. Edwards and Sherrel Hammar enjoying a morning stroll through the exhibits.



President-Elect Inam Rahman MD, found another use for this specimen container.



Seats start to fill-up at one of the scientific session's meeting rooms.



Physician and author, Terry Shintani MD at the lecture podium.



Dr. Peter and Mrs. Mary Kim decide to take a short break with coffee and muffins.

Photos courtesy of Bill Goodhue, Jr. MD